

Shelburne Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes 6/26/23 Approved 7/24/23

Larry called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Joel Dwight appointed Secretary Pro Tem. Norm recorded the meeting on Zoom. Riparian study is being added to the agenda.

Members present - Larry Flaccus, David Schochet, Laurie Wheeler, Nina Talayco, Peggy Warwick, Joan Lapierre, Jim Perry, Norm Beebe, John Wheeler, Garth Lapointe, Joel Dwight

Guests - Andrea Donlon from FRCOG

Minutes of 5/30/23 were reviewed. Nina suggested we expand on Lara's concerns on transparency and clarity. Larry read Nina's paragraph to edit remarks made by Lara Radish about the proposed River Trail. After slight modifications suggested by Peggy the minutes were edited to include Nina's proposed changes.

Motion made to accept minutes with edits made by Nina Talayco. Seconded by Peggy Warwick. Motion accepted with abstains by David and Norm who were not present.

Open Space and Recreation Plan revision - Andrea Donlon from FRCOG reviewed progress on the OSRP. Following-up on discussion at the last meeting, the state does not require protected properties in Chapter 5 to include the owner's name but does require a parcel number for identification. The names were included in our last OSRP.

Peggy Warwick made a motion to include names of parcel owners in the new ORSP. Motion seconded by Jim Perry. Motion carried with David Schochet abstaining.

Andrea reported she has edits to sections 3, 4 and 5 and she feels they are good on grammar and clarity but would still welcome input about these sections. She would also like to review section 3 with a Planning Board member. Jim told Andrea there have been 3 efforts to put a trail along the river and a Zoning Board component has been added for municipal trails. Also needed are approval from the Select board, Conservation Commission, and Planning Board. Jim said other area towns do not seem to have this level of complexity. Larry pointed out there is no definition of what constitutes a municipal trail.

Andrea asked if Shelburne had a pool of cash available to purchase property if the occasion arose. Larry said there is a small fund available for open space preservation. Larry and John said CPA money could be set aside for property purchases. Larry also said the Franklin Land Trust has a revolving fund to purchase property. Andrea suggested we could identify qualities of properties that might be of interest.

Andrea is going to look into a suggestion made by Nina to clean up the section on Chapter Lands and make it more user friendly. There is a table of all town owned properties and Andrea will need information on current use and recreation potential. Larry will distribute the policy adopted by the Selectboard regarding the right of first refusal procedure. Larry suggested the members review the parcels and we can cover that at another meeting. Andrea wondered if we wanted to include private property of interest to the Town. Nina said she is willing to talk more to Andrea about notes she has made. Andrea said she is working on sections 6 and 7 which should be done by our next meeting. Then she is on to sections 8 and 9. After which we can consider dates for a public meeting in the Fall. Larry will send out our old Chapter 9 plan for review by the OSC members. Andrea suggested considering how many items we want on the new action list. Larry noted that action items often need to be worked on by other boards and committees. We need to consider if they will actually step up and participate. John said he will look into section 3 that includes zoning items. Andrea will pull out those items and John will bring them up at the next Planning Board meeting.

Community Preservation Act Committee - Joan expressed interest in being the OSC representative for a 1 year appointment on the CPA committee. *Motion made by Jim Perry to recommend Joan for appointment.* Seconded by Norm Beebe. Motion passed unanimously.

Gardener Falls Power Plant Recreation Plan - Jim reported that local involved groups had made many comments concerning the plan. There was a meeting at Buckland Town Hall with Power Company Reps. The Power company is going to modify their plans and come back with another proposal.

Trail Status Updates - Jim said the surveyor will be working on the proposed River Trail but no vegetation clearing is needed for him yet.

Jim will see John Wheeler about a potential trail on his property and anyone interested is invited to take a look as well.

Nina wanted more information about the proposed River Trail. Norm provided a short synopsis of the history of the proposed River Trail to bring Nina and other new members up to speed on what has transpired so far concerning this town owned property. Jim said he could make any pertinent maps available to Nina and much of it is available on the Town website.

Planned Walks - Jim reports 6 walks have been completed so far and he is open to discussing ideas about new walks.

Town Newsletter - Jim and Nina worked on an article for the Town Newsletter. Norm said the Rec Committee thought the article was well done, explaining that most of Shelburne's recreation land is privately owned. John asked if the Water District Land might be coming up for sale. Jim noted ownership of the dam could be problematic and he thinks Mass Audubon is interested in the property.

Woodland Partnership Grant - Application due July 10 for a \$25,000.00 grant if we have a project we could use it for. Larry said the Grant goals have to meet the goals of the Woodland Partnership and he would send out a list of grants that have been awarded in the past.

- Jim said the trail down by the railroad trestle wouldn't be available for consideration for another year.
- Norm said the ball field project is being reconsidered due to lack of interest.
- John said the Planning Board has been talking with FRCOG about a Master Plan with Buckland. John will look into it but the next Planning Board meeting is July 11 and the application needs to be in by July 10. John thought the Planning Board might be able to schedule a meeting and discuss the grant and how it might be directed towards the Master Plan.
- Larry also suggested to the Fire Department that the grant might be available for an ATV.
- Jim suggested at some point we will want to consider a piece of equipment for keeping trails mowed. Larry didn't think we were ready to purchase equipment yet.

Woodland Partnership Riparian Study - The idea of tree planting on the Lillian Davenport lot was proposed in the study. Jim pointed out most of the property is already covered with mature trees and invasives and the land within the flood zone is controlled by the Hydro Company or Bell Atlantic. He noted the bank area that is currently covered with knotweed. Larry asked for all to review the riparian study that he sent out today.

Committee Reports:

- Ag Committee - No rep present
- Conservation Commission - No rep present
- Planning Board - John reported a major focus for the coming year will concern watershed zoning, climate resiliency and runoff.
- Recreation Committee - Norm reported they had skipped their last meeting.

Visitor and Guest Comments - none

Announcements

- Larry reminded the group there is a pollinator workshop coming up on Thursday of this week.

- Jim asked everyone to remember he is soliciting ideas for the August newsletter and suggestions for future hikes.
- David thanked all of our new members for joining the group.

Next meeting: 7/24/23 by Zoom.

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Perry seconded by Norm Beebe, meeting adjourned 9:01 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Joel Dwight
Secretary Pro Tem